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Home and Forum: Cicero between “Public” and “Private”*

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1. Introduction

I imagine there is no-one who has not approached this presidential duty with trepidation and in a mood of humility. One re-reads the innovative scholarship, the displays of wisdom and wit, the magisterial statements of the lasting value of our subject-matter and discussions of contemporary currents in education, and then comes the Bertie Woosterish reaction that it would be well to enter a *Nolle prosequi*. Since there is no precedent for that, let me thank you, my fellow-members, for the honour you have done me in putting me in this awkward position.

In choosing to talk about Cicero I am indulging an interest which goes back to my school-days. I remember with gratitude my teachers who introduced me to the speeches and letters. I am also implicitly paying tribute to generations of scholars who have established and commented on the texts and to the historians who have sorted out the facts. A recent surge of interest in Cicero and his period would get nowhere without the brilliant and meticulous work of these pioneers. In this forum let me name only Bob Broughton and Shackleton Bailey, whose magisterial edition of Cicero’s letters—published between 1965

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and 1980—will bear copious fruit in years to come in both social and political history. Such is the process of generation: we graft fruit-trees for our grandchildren.¹

It is my hope that, just as much of what I have to say will be seen to depend on the work of other scholars—and some is in similar vein to Bob Kaster's 1996 address on "The Shame of the Romans"—so it may impinge from time to time on the varied scholarly interests of the individual members of the audience. For the moment you other individuals are all performing the role of audience. The individual attempts to present her own views and engage with other points of view, to do what seems to be expected in a particular context, in a particular series of occasions and before an ever-changing but somehow continuing community of scholars. Lonely grappling with material, self-exposure, discussion, learning from others, risking criticism and stating disagreement, these things define what we do, in scholarship and in "real life."

There is also an overriding concern to illustrate a truth of which we are all convinced, that the study of the past, and of texts long claimed as "classic," is as relevant today as it has ever been to the conduct of our lives and to our evaluation of our experience. Rigorous scholarship elucidates complex texts; through them we re-explore both the human condition and the individual human being and the society in which he or she operated. This does not lead us to simple moral lessons or to easy conclusions about continuity of social norms and *mores*. Much as we might wish to argue that the Romans are directly responsible for modern Italy, I am regretfully sceptical. But examining Roman texts may enrich our understanding of the constant negotiation between an individual and others and a whole society, about how to assert, interpret and apply in practice what are said to be accepted moral norms. The Romans are interesting both because they are like us and because they are unlike us. Cicero is interesting both because he is a Roman and human and because he is a unique individual, flawed and selfish, loving and brave, moved by public opinion and by private conscience.

2. A Continuum

This evening I want to do three things: first, to explore how an individual feels and presents himself as he focusses on his innermost feelings, as he reacts to other people's reactions to him and as he presents himself to intimates whom he

¹A fuller list would include *RE*, the prosopographical studies of, e.g., Syme and Wiseman, and editions and commentaries. Grandchildren: *V. E.* 9.50, cf. *G.* 2.58, 294.

knows well and to the wider circles of those who know him; second, to view this activity in its physical context, especially the town house and the forum; and, third, to set both the individual and his environment within Roman morality. After some preliminary observations about the individual, I shall consider moral attitudes to home and family, and then go on to ideas of natural affection and duty in the family and to a case study which will I hope suggest how moral conflict might be experienced between affection and duties and between the individual and society.

There is an understandable tendency to “compartmentalise” when we confront our evidence and try to say something intelligible about it. So we may find a book with individual chapters on Cicero the philosopher, Cicero the politician, Cicero the orator and Cicero the man.² But that isn’t what it feels like when you are Cicero. He plays many roles and stands in different relationships to many people, but his personality is unsplit. Visualise him in the physical world. Picture him moving from bed to atrium to vestibule and down the hill to the forum, into law court or Senate house or temple. Wherever he goes, he cannot escape the public role that he incurred by embarking on a career as orator and senator. Conversely, during a debate in the Senate or the storming of Pindenissum, he is still the son of Marcus Cicero and the father of another Marcus. So much is obvious and we could say similar things about ourselves. The individual’s experience is a continuum. Let us think of this in relation to physical space, indoors and outdoors. In Roman thinking about the house, public and private join up and overlap. The threshold of the house does not mark a barrier between public and private worlds, but a marker over which household members and non-members pass to go in or out.³

Inside and outside the home, an individual comes under observation. For instance, Vitruvius makes it clear how the town house of the powerful man was penetrated by an assortment of people other than family, friends or staff. He describes the requirements which the architect must bear in mind. Such a house must have spacious accommodation for morning visitors (*salutatores*) and those

²For example, T. A. Dorey, ed., *Cicero* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1964) has separate chapters, among others, on the speeches, the poems, “The Political Career of a *Novus Homo*,” “Cicero the Philosopher” and “Cicero the Man.”

³*Ov. Fast.* 1.135–36: *omnis habet geminas hinc atque hinc ianua frontes / e quibus haec populum spectat, at illa Larem.*

attending “public deliberations and private trials and judgments.”⁴ The house was the politician’s headquarters and office.⁵ Vitruvius distinguishes public reception rooms (*communia*), into which even the common people could come without an invitation, and those for which you would require an invitation, baths, dining-rooms and *cubicula*. Cicero prided himself on not secluding himself in his *cubiculum*, but on making himself accessible, whether as candidate or official, in the more public areas.⁶

His strategy, he claimed, was to make himself visible to the sovereign people, whose eyes were sharper than their ears. He lived where they could see him, especially after his consulship when he bought the Palatine house.⁷ This was on the site of the house of the tribune Drusus, whose architect had offered to build him a house that could not be overlooked. Drusus retorted that he wanted to be overlooked and inspected.⁸ The house, Cicero emphasises, could be seen from almost everywhere in the city.⁹ The honest senator exposed himself to examination. Concealment bred conjecture. What could be going on in the house of Piso? The sound of music and singing suggested that his

⁴Vitr. 6.5.1–3 (Loeb tr. of 2: *et publica consilia et privata iudicia arbitriaque*). Cf. Sen. Ben. 6.33.4–34.5.

⁵E.g., Phil. 12.24: *Domesticis me parietibus vix tueor sine amicorum custodiis. itaque in urbe maneo, si licebit, manebo. haec mea sedes est, haec vigilia, haec custodia, hoc praesidium stativum. teneant alii castra, gerant res bellicas; occiderint hostem; nam hoc caput est; nos, ut dicimus semperque fecimus, urbem et res urbanas vobiscum pariter tuebimur*. (“I can barely protect myself by the walls of my house without a garrison of my friends. So I stay in the city; I will stay, if I am allowed. This is my dwelling, watch, guard-duty, permanent station. Let others hold camps, carry on military tasks, slay the enemy. This is capital: we, as we say and have always done, will protect the city and the affairs of the city on equal terms with you.”) Cf. Phil. 14.20.

⁶Att. 116/6.2.5, 10; Sul. 26; Phil. 8.28–31; cf. Q. fr. 1/1.1.25. See now Andrew M. Riggsby, “‘Private’ and ‘Public’ in Roman Culture: The Case of the *cubiculum*,” *JRA* 10 (1997): 36–56.

⁷Planc. 66–67. Cf. Fam. 95/2.12.2.

⁸Vell. 2.14.3. Cicero (Att. 13/1.13.6, 25 Jan. 61) mentions the prestigiousness of his new address and implies that comment had been hostile (cf. Att. 16/1.16.10, 80/4.5.2) because he had had to borrow to meet the steep price: *homines intellegere coeperunt licere amicorum facultatibus in emendo ad dignitatem aliquam pervenire* (“people began to realise that it is permissible by using the resources of friends in making a purchase to arrive at a degree of *dignitas*”). Cf. Fam. 4/5.6.2, to P. Sestius, mid/late Dec. 62, on the price and the seller, M. Crassus. Plut. Cic. 8.3 stresses the convenience of the house for *salutatores*. E. Papi in E. M. Steinby, ed., *Lexikon Topographicum Urbis Romae* II: 202–4 at 202, thinks the house, not just the site, was Drusus’.

⁹Dom. 100.

colleague Gabinius was holding orgies. Piso's house was relatively quiet, the haunt of Greeks, including Philodemus. Cicero is free to find hostile interpretations.¹⁰

The speeches elsewhere suggest that there would be observation and comment about *who* went in and out of people's houses.¹¹ And *what*? Consumer goods went in.¹² Music and cooking smells emanated from the house.¹³ So did gossip: the *Commentariolum* says gossip by habitués of the house is inevitable, so the politician had better try to make it favorable.¹⁴ From such information a reputation is built up.¹⁵ Modern anthropological studies of the layout of villages and how social and moral status is continuously assessed show a similar pattern.¹⁶ Romans, a source specifically tells us, scrutinised the vegetable patch and drew conclusions about the mistress of the house.¹⁷ They would judge a man by the physical aspect of his house: was the degree of luxury and grandeur precisely appropriate to his social standing? Did a senator welcome callers at their convenience rather than his own? Were his slaves well-mannered and well turned out? Were his callers people of good repute? Did people go in and out

¹⁰*Pis.* 22.

¹¹Cf. *Verr.* 2.5.28, *Comm. pet.* 3.

¹²*S. Rosc.* 133–34.

¹³Noise: *S. Rosc.* 134, *Verr.* 2.5.28, *Pis.* 22; cooking: *Pis.* 13.

¹⁴*Comm. pet.* 17; *Cael.* 6.

¹⁵E.g., a house might be reputed lascivious or virtuous (*Cael.* 55, cf. 9; *Phil.* 2.68).

¹⁶In her study of a small Greek village in the late 1960s, Juliet du Boulay analyses the design of houses and how they hamper or permit a degree of observation by neighbours (*Portrait of a Greek Mountain Village* [Oxford: Clarendon, 1974]). See 11, on the front yard, open to public inspection, in which "the baking and washing are done, wood is chopped, animals are tethered, dishes washed," etc. "None of these activities is secret in itself, but the garnering of information about as many people as possible is vital to the life of the villager, both from the point of view of simple enjoyment of the knowledge of what is going on around him, and because it might just become relevant in a certain situation to know what a particular person was doing at a certain time on a certain day." Further on the house, 15–40. "The house as a physical structure is deeply linked with the identity of the family, so the house in which the family lives is the chief stronghold of those values which are basic to that society" (17). Observation of domestic tasks: 49, of staying at home/going out: 195; gossip: 201–13. The village was Ambéli in Euboea, a "dying village" of 33 houses, 144 inhabitants, in the late 1960s (1966–68, 1970). From my own experience of traditional communities (the Cotswolds in the 1940s and 1950s, the Sabine hills in the 1960s), I would say this is how it works. The observer notes how white the washing looks or how early in the day it is hung out to dry and draws conclusions about the industry of the housewife. The children's behavior, the modest look of a girl sewing at a window, conduct at the fountain—such everyday things provide a basis for moral assessment.

¹⁷*Plin. Nat.* 19.57.

openly by the front door, or was there a lot of slipping in and out at the back? What went on at entertainments for invited guests?

The house, however, though permeable, was private property. Public and private are naturally contrasted. The Romans, like us, speak routinely of “at home and abroad,” *domi forisque*, literally “at home and out of doors.”¹⁸ For a member of the ruling class, the contrast is often between private and public, his domestic and official life.¹⁹ *Domus* and *forum* are opposed.²⁰

The locus of family life was the house, or houses. The house is naturally spoken of in the same breath as the family or interchangeably with it. The equation came naturally, since *domus* could mean the physical house or the family.²¹

There is a strong sense in Cicero of home as a refuge from the troubles of the world. He says of his Tusculan villa, “in that one place alone can we rest from all toils and annoyances.”²² A senator, it is clear, might expect that villas would give him a chance to get away from the constant demands put upon him by clients and friends at his town headquarters.²³ We shall see later how Cicero could find comparative seclusion in the country.

The house is both contrasted with the outside world and seen as part of a continuum with that world. On the immortal Nones of December 63 Cicero bravely told the Senate that he was prepared to sacrifice himself to secure the safety and happiness of the Senate and Roman People. His eye moves from the great symbolic public places to the individual’s most private place, and back again to the curule chair from which he has just risen and before which he is standing. “I am the consul for whom neither the forum, which contains all

¹⁸E.g., *Phil.* 2. 69; *Att.* 318/13.10.1; *Fam.* 111/15.5.1, from Cato. For the metaphorical use see *Att.* 92/4.18.3.

¹⁹E.g., *Planc.* 66; *Sest.* 95; *Phil.* 2.109.

²⁰*Verr.* 2.4.126; 2.5.137; *Dom.* 110; *Deiot.* 33; *Lig.* 14; *Att.* 74/4.2.7, 124/7.1.9, 262/12.23.1; *Q. fr.* 22/3.2.3; *Fam.* 252/5.15.3–4.

²¹See especially Richard Saller, “*Familia* and *domus*: Defining and Representing the Roman Family and Household” in *Patriarchy, Property and Death in the Roman Family* (Cambridge 1994): 74–101.

²²*Att.* 1/1.5.7. Cf. *Catul.* 31.7–10. For *perfugium* in this context see *Cat.* 4.2, *Dom.* 109, *Fam.* 252/5.15.3, 333/7.20.2.

²³See, e.g., his annoyance at interruptions at the Formianum (*Att.* 34/2.14.2, c. 26 April 59). He expected and tolerated the common herd up to the fourth hour (*basilicam habeo, non villam*; “I have a public hall, not a villa”), but C. Arrius expected to drop in to talk philosophy, and Catulus’ friend Sebosus was also a nuisance. *Hoc est Roma decedere?* (“Does this amount to leaving Rome?” *Att.* 35/2.15.3). Similar remarks about the Cumanum (*Att.* 95/5.2.2, 10 May 51: *pusillam Romam*, “a miniature Rome”).

equity, nor the Campus, consecrated by consular auspices, nor the Senate house, to which the races of the world come for help, nor house, the common refuge of all, nor bed, the place granted us for repose, nor this seat of honour has ever been free from ambush and peril of death."²⁴ Both the buildings and open spaces in which a Roman exercised his political rights and the home which was the focus of his private life were sacred. Both *domus* and *urbs* had Lares and Penates.

What is holier and more strongly fortified by all religious awe than the house of each and every citizen? Here are the altars, hearths, Penates, here the sacred things, reverence, rituals. This refuge is so holy to all that it is never right to snatch anyone away from there. (*Dom.* 109)²⁵

A man feels at home with his own household, *domestici*, who include kin, staff and various hangers-on, such as intellectuals. In a letter to Atticus, Cicero explicitly contrasts close kin and friends, including those who did not usually live in the same household, with other people. He missed the company of his brother, who was in Asia at the time, and of Atticus. In Shackleton Bailey's translation:

And you whose talk and advice has so often lightened my worry and vexation of spirit, the partner in my public life and intimate of all my private concerns, the sharer of all my talk and plans, where are you? I am so utterly forsaken that my only moments of relaxation are those I spend with my wife, my little daughter, and my darling Marcus. My brilliant, worldly friendships may make a fine show in public, but in the home they are barren things. My house is crammed of a morning, I go down to the forum surrounded by droves of friends, but in all the multitude I cannot find one with whom I can pass an unguarded joke or fetch a private sigh. (*Att.* 18/1.18.1, 20 Jan. 60)²⁶

²⁴*Cat.* 4.2–3: *Ego sum ille consul, patres conscripti, cui non forum in quo omnis aequitas continetur, non campus consularibus auspiciis consecratus, non curia, summum auxilium omnium gentium, non domus, commune perfugium, non lectus ad quietem datus, non denique haec sedes honoris umquam vacua mortis periculo atque insidiis fuit.*

²⁵Cf., e.g., *Quinct.* 83; *Sul.* 86; *Dom.* 106, 143.

²⁶For the thought of being alone in a crowd cf. *Att.* 293/12.51.1: *quamvis multi sint, magis tamen ero solus quam si unus esses* ("although they be many, I shall be more alone than if you only were with me").

3. Philosophical and Public Statements on Family

The family is at the heart of Roman morality. The theory endorsed and transmitted by Cicero in his work on the *Duty of Man*, which as *Tully's Offices* had a good run as a prescribed text for centuries, is that the state is rooted in the family and the family in natural instinct.

Because the urge to reproduce is an instinct common to all animals, society originally consists of the pair, next of the pair with their children, then one house and all things in common. This is the beginning of the city and the seed-bed of the state. (*Off.* 1.54)²⁷

An individual owes a primary duty to kin. This was the completely uncontroversial view of nearly all writers in classical antiquity. As philosophers explored the origins and functions of communities, both households and states consisting of people linked by affection (*philoï*), a humbler literature of manuals of good behaviour had preached proper relations between husband and wife, parent and child and master and slave.²⁸ There was a similar duty to friends and to the city. Where there are duties, there must be conflicts of duty.

I shall trace briefly now three themes in the rhetorical treatment of the family: its association with city and state; emotional attachment to family, especially children; and assessment of the character of friend or foe by examining behavior to kin.

First, the family is constantly linked with the city, as the philosophical consensus would lead us to expect. When a Roman imagines the physical city of Rome, he may speak of *templa* and *tecta*, the dwellings of gods and humans.²⁹ When he thinks of human society, he moves from the household to the community of citizens.³⁰

Natural family affection is the second theme. The family is invoked in speeches to heighten the audience's emotion.³¹ In forensic speeches the orator

²⁷Cf. *Fin.* 2.45, 5.65.

²⁸Philosophers: Arist. *EN* 1160b32–1161a3, 1161a22–25, 1162a16–33. Cf. *Lucr.* 5.962–65, 1011–27 (Epicureans). See David Konstan, *Friendship in the Classical World* (Cambridge, 1997) 67–72. Manuals: Treggiari, *Roman Marriage. Iusti coniuges from the Time of Cicero to the Time of Ulpian* (Oxford, 1991) 192–99.

²⁹E.g., *Sul.* 86.

³⁰E.g., Cicero relays Crassus' speech in which Crassus claimed that he owed his wife, house and country to Cicero (*Att.* 14/1.14.3, 13 Feb. 61).

³¹E.g., *Red. Sen.* 1.

elicits sympathy for the relatives of the accused, especially (where possible) children or defenceless females.³² In political speeches, there is often an appeal to the hearers' instinct to protect their children. The old appeals to the need to defend the *status quo* against political opponents, who are defined as people who would act like foreign foes, are couched in terms of defence of hearth, home, fortunes, household gods, wives and children.³³ Affection between family-members is held up as the social norm.

How strong an emotion one's own family ought to inspire is made very clear from Cicero's speeches on his return from over a year's exile. A man so tough that he could calmly bear separation from his family would demonstrate insensitivity. For love of one's own family is demanded by common humanity: we naturally hold them dear (*cari*) and find them agreeable (*iucundi*).

Could I...deny my humanity and repudiate the common feelings of our nature? I would not have done a praiseworthy deed nor conferred any benefit on the commonwealth, if I could have lost with equanimity the things I left for the sake of the commonwealth, and I would have thought such toughness of mind (like that of a body which does not feel a burn) an insensitivity, not a virtue. To take on such mental agony, for one man to suffer while the city still stands the things which happen to the conquered when a city is captured, and to see oneself torn from the embrace of one's family, the house taken stone from stone, one's fortunes plundered, to lose one's very country for the sake of country, to be despoiled of the glorious privileges conferred by the Roman People, to be hurled down from the highest level of dignity, to see one's enemies in the dress of magistrates bidding like undertakers to perform the funeral before one's death has even been bewailed: to undergo all this for the sake of saving citizens' lives and that when you are present and sorrowing, not such a philosopher as those who care for nothing, but loving your own people and things as common humanity demands: that is glorious and godlike fame. For a man who with equanimity for the sake of the commonwealth abandons things which he never thought dear and pleasant, demonstrates no remarkable benevolence towards the commonwealth; but a man who leaves for the sake of the commonwealth things from which he is agonisingly torn, truly loves his country, whose survival he puts before his love of home and family. (*Dom.* 97–98)

³²*Sul.* 89; especially *Flac.* 106 with (probably) *Orat.* 131; *Red. Sen.* 37; *Red. Pop.* 6–9.

³³*Flac.* 1, 95, 99, 104; *Mil.* 3, 76, 78; *Phil.* 14.9–10.

Cicero's references to his family in speeches are often intended to evoke fellow-feeling from his auditors.³⁴ Simultaneously, he is representing himself as a good family man.

Thirdly, play can be made with evaluations of how well or badly other people perform their duty to their family. The invectives are more memorable than the eulogies. Verres fails in his duty to his son by taking him into bad company; Sassia is the complete opposite of a loving mother to her son; Clodius not only commits incest but tramples on a sister's property-rights; Antony parades through Italy with an actress who usurps the status of a wife.³⁵ Such people are not to be trusted with other people's nearest and dearest.

Pietas towards relations was the best possible indication of probity in all social dealings, including politics. I quote from the *Defence of Plancius*:

I omit those things which are less in the limelight but are certainly praised when they are publicised, how he lives with his people, first of all with his parent—for in my judgement *pietas* is the foundation of all virtues. He venerates him like a god—and indeed a parent is not very different from a god to his children—and loves him like a companion, a brother, a contemporary.... These are the solid and clear proofs, judges, these are the signs of a probity which is not painted with the cosmetics of public display but branded by the private marks of truth. When we canvass and court the people, it's an easy thing; it can be looked at but not handled; it shows up well at a distance, it isn't shaken out and scrutinised, it can't be picked up in the hand.... He is a man distinguished both in external and private matters.... (*Planc.* 29–30)³⁶

In combination, these three themes allow the orator to deploy and exploit the powerful idea that a man's public behaviour will be all of a piece with his conduct in the private sphere. "His wife can't trust him, why should I?"³⁷

³⁴*Verr.* 2.1.112–14, 153. Cf. 104–11.

³⁵Verres: *Verr.* 1.25; 2.2.50, 145, 154; 2.3.23; 2.5.30, 64, 81, 137. Sassia: *Clu.* 12, 15–18, 184, 188–90, 199–200. Clodius: *Mil.* 75. Antony: *Phil.* 2.58, cf. *Att.* 201/10.10.5. Further on the perverse domestic arrangements of Antony: Treggiari, "Leges sine moribus," *AHB* 8.3 (1994): 86–98 at 94–96.

³⁶Cf. *Fin.* 2.77 (to Epicurean politicians who fake morality): *aut etiam, ut vestitum, sic sententiam habeas aliam domesticam, aliam forensem, ut in fronte ostentatio sit, intus veritas occultetur?* For coherence between private and public life cf. *Rhet. Her.* 4.25.

³⁷The connection is explicit in *Phil.* 2.50. *Probabile ex vita*: cf. *Rhet. Her.* 2.5, 23–26; *Inv.* 2.50–51. See James M. May, *Trials of Character: The Eloquence of Ciceronian ethos* (Chapel Hill & London, 1988) *passim*.

4. Private Statements on Family, Especially on or to Cicero's Own

There is no inconsistency between the attitudes to family paraded in the speeches and the reactions of the letters, which we will normally suppose to be closer to what Cicero himself thought or felt. Cicero is unfailingly courteous in his references to the kin of his correspondents³⁸ and displays affection, for instance, to Atticus' wife and daughter.³⁹ The welfare of his own family is a concern in letters to Atticus as well as to Terentia.⁴⁰

His affection for his children is a constant theme. His sensitivity to the charm of the very young cannot be doubted.⁴¹ Here, I want to concentrate on the adult Tullia, not because I assume that he loved her better than young Marcus, but because the available sources tell us more about her.⁴² The emotional and moral content of the relationship will emerge most clearly when we reach the surviving evidence on the father's reactions to his daughter's death.

It is clear that his relationship with her was very important to him. In 49, for instance, thanking Atticus for his attentiveness to Tullia, he had commented on her virtues:

Her courage is amazing. How bravely she bears public disaster and family trials! How noble she was when we parted! She shows love and sympathy in the highest degree. But she wants me to do what is right and to be well spoken of. I must stop talking about this, in case I show too much sympathy for myself. (*Att.* 199/10.8.9, 2 May 49, Cumae)

5. Duty to Family: Deeds, Not Words

Moral questions arise most distinctly in crises. Cicero's reflections on what he owed his family, and some account of what he did for them, come out best in times of difficulty. The key passage on duty to wife and children comes in an emotional letter to Terentia during Cicero's exile. He makes it clear that his

³⁸E.g., *ad Brut.* 24 (SB p.b. 26)/26/1.18.1; *Fam.* 232/4.11.1; 234/6.6.3.

³⁹Both: *Att.* 115/6.1.22, 20 Feb. 50; *Att.* 119/6.5.4, 26 June 50; Pilia: e.g., *Att.* 104/5.11.7, July 51; Attica: e.g., *Att.* 413/16.3.6, 17 July 44.

⁴⁰E.g., *Att.* 64/3.19.2–3, 68/3.23.5 (58 B.C.E.); 97/5.4.1 (51 B.C.E.).

⁴¹*Att.* 18/1.18.1; 125/7.2.4; 248/12.1.1. Cf. *Fin.* 5.41–43, 48, 55, 61–62 (close observation of a child's development).

⁴²The test came with the death of Tullia. Marcus is almost ignored (most strikingly in *Att.* 331/13.23.3) in the surviving correspondence. (He is mentioned in *Att.* 266/12.27.2, 267/12.28.1, 271/12.32.2.) This is insufficient to prove that Cicero's love for Marcus was dead. There is an excellent brief account of young Marcus' life in Keith R. Bradley, *Discovering the Roman Family: Studies in Roman Social History* (Oxford, 1991) 103–6.

duty included a duty to look after his family. He is ashamed that he has not shown courage and proper care (*diligentia*) to his excellent wife and adorable children. It is his fault they are suffering.

I am overcome by grief, my dear Terentia. But my own sufferings do not torture me more than yours and those of all the rest of you. But I am more wretched than you, very wretched as you are, because this disaster is common to both of us, but the blame is all mine.... I am overcome by pain and shame: I'm ashamed because I did not show manly courage and due care for my excellent wife and sweet children.... As long as you have hope, I shall not fail, lest everything should seem to have been ruined by my fault. (*Fam.* 9/14.3.1–2 to Terentia, 29 Nov. 58, Dyrrhachium)

A major part of his duty to Tullia, as he perceived it, lay in arranging a suitable marriage for her⁴³ and then in helping support the marriage, on the one hand both by treating her husband as a member of the family and by continuing his old relationship with her, and, on the other hand, by conscientious attention to his financial responsibilities towards her.⁴⁴ This is shown most clearly in her third marriage, to Dolabella. The marriage had been arranged in 50 by Tullia and Terentia during Cicero's absence in Cilicia and without his knowledge, though he had (if we can trust what he said in his own defence to Ap. Claudius Pulcher) given them a blanket authorisation and he certainly gave retrospective approval.⁴⁵ Known to be wild, Dolabella lived up to his track-record. We can distinguish three strains on the marriage: Dolabella's sexual infidelity, the fact that he was in Caesar's camp and Cicero in Pompey's, and Cicero's own financial problems. Of these, Dolabella's adherence to Caesar could have worked as an insurance-policy, and perhaps did to some extent, but was a political embarrassment to Cicero, especially when Dolabella adopted measures which ran counter to Cicero's advertised beliefs.

As for the third, Cicero was responsible for paying the dowry in three instalments on July 1 of 49, 48 and 47. In March 48, Cicero accused himself of being to blame for his negligence towards his daughter: he had not got the

⁴³Also specified as part of the duty of the *buon padre di famiglia* in Sicily by Jane and Peter Schneider, *Culture and Political Economy in Western Sicily* (New York, 1976): 89.

⁴⁴Hope of pleasure from alliance with Piso: *Fam.* 9/14.3.3; with Crassipes: *Fam.* 18/1.7.11. Reactions to Dolabella: *Att.* 126/7.3.12.

⁴⁵*Fam.* 75/3.12.2. Retrospective consent was legally necessary, if he was, as I presume, *paterfamilias* to Tullia. See further Treggiari, "*Digna condicio*: Betrothals in the Roman Upper Class," *EMC/CV* 28 n.s. 3 (1984): 419–51.

second instalment available.⁴⁶ Divorce was discussed, between Atticus, Tullia, and presumably Terentia in Rome and Cicero in Greece, but it appeared too dangerous and the idea was shelved.⁴⁷ Pompey’s crash, the defection of his brother and his own humiliating return to Brindisi depressed Cicero further. By his birthday on January 3rd 47 he was feeling suicidal about his position and how he had failed Tullia.⁴⁸

Even a visit from her in the summer did nothing to raise his spirits and he accused himself:

I have not taken the pleasure I ought to take in my remarkable daughter’s courage, humanity and love. On the contrary, I am overcome by incredible grief at the realisation that such a human being has such an unhappy lot and that this is happening through no wrongdoing of her own, but by my grievous fault. (*Att.* 228/11.17.1, 12/13 June 47, Brindisi)

Although he was clear that the final decision to divorce was up to Tullia,⁴⁹ Cicero focussed on his own duty and shortcomings: his concern for her happiness and his own political and financial mistakes, which imperilled her position.⁵⁰ He never blames her for picking Dolabella and he is ready to sacrifice luxury and capital to meet his obligations. He agonises over his handling of the situation.⁵¹ Tullia’s patient and easy-going nature is constantly praised. Tullia was eventually briefly reconciled with her husband, but divorce followed soon after.⁵²

6. Assessment of the Behavior of Others

People’s conduct of their family affairs often provoked curiosity and comment. Marriage and divorce, being relatively public, could be analysed. Kin, friends, social equals and even the Roman people took an interest in observable behaviour, inside or outside the privacy of the house, at any crisis.

⁴⁶*Att.* 212/11.2.2, ?mid. March 48.

⁴⁷*Att.* 213/11.3.1; 11.4a.

⁴⁸*Att.* 220/11.9.3.

⁴⁹*Att.* 213/11.3.1.

⁵⁰*Att.* 228/11.17, 12/13 June 47.

⁵¹*Att.* 231/11.25.3, 5th July 47: “I was blind to pay the second instalment. I wish I had done something else, but the opportunity has passed”; 232/11.23.3, 9 July 47; *Fam.* 169/14.13, 10 July 47.

⁵²The *terminus post quem* for the divorce is *Att.* 241/12.5c, ?12 June 46. SB *ad loc.* puts the divorce in November.

How to bear or display grief at the death of a relation was not only a problem for the bereaved but a topic of interest to people outside the family. It may offer a case-study of appropriate behaviour. Ethics, social convention, etiquette; ideas about privacy, ideas about the example to be set by people in public life; natural feeling, the character of the individual; duty to the dead; concern, interference, observation, sympathy, gossip, malice—all come into play.

The topic to be discussed is the tension between what people actually felt and what they or others thought they ought to feel and the consequent conflicts about behaviour.

7. Grief and Mourning

Birth and death are the only two experiences we all share. We confront our own death alone. The death of a parent or child, perhaps even more than that of a husband or wife, makes us think of our own mortality. Emotion runs high. Moral questions become urgent. Natural death will tend to occur at home, perhaps in one's bed, *privately*.

How a family copes with a death is also in part *public* knowledge. Like birth or marriage, it may be formally announced and officially registered. The body must be moved from the house and disposed of, with or without formal ritual.

How should a person react when a close relative dies? This eternal human question was much treated by ancient philosophers. How Roman society as a whole thought people should act, in the disposal of the body, in the transient rituals of mourning and the funeral or in lasting commemoration on stone, is documented in literature on deaths and funerals, in tombs and epitaphs. When Cicero addressed the question for himself in theoretical works, he (typically) sought out Roman exemplars of bereaved parents. When he experienced grief himself, most notably at the death of Tullia, he examined his conscience and considered what other people thought of his reactions.⁵³

The philosophers recommended iron self-control. Roman etiquette prescribed a limited amount of ritualised lamentation by women, followed by formal mourning for a set period. The rules for men were different, because they were expected to be involved in public service. But nine days from the death marked a ritual period of withdrawal from normal life for both sexes, ending in a funeral feast. In real life the reactions of bereaved men, at least,

⁵³Cf., e.g., the deaths of L. Cicero (*Att.* 1/1.5.1), Sositheus his reader (*Att.* 12/1.12.4), Alexio his doctor (*Att.* 377/15.1.1, 379/15.2.4).

were scrutinised, partly in sympathy, to see how they were coping, and partly to see how they lived up to an ideal of restraint in the display of grief and in ability to get back to "business as usual."

Caesar, for example, evinced proper self-control when his only child, Julia, died in 54. Quintus reported on Caesar's deportment to his brother, who replies "About the *virtus* and *gravitas* which Caesar showed in his terrible grief, I derived great pleasure from your letter."⁵⁴

I think most people in our society who have experienced the loss of a close relative will have felt a numbness and disbelief in the first shock, followed by turbulent emotions, including some which conscience censors as inappropriate, such as anger at the dead person for leaving us. Psychiatrists distinguish three stages in normal grief, first "denial," then depression, and finally a return to a stable state, with sad thoughts of the dead, but without the violence of the earlier emotions. Six to eight months are considered the normal period for the "grief response." I quote a convenient modern authority:

Initially the bereaved feel numb. They find it impossible to comprehend the full consequences of what has happened, and thus may appear so emotionally unaffected by the death as to seem callous. Psychiatrists call this period the stage of denial, and it can quite normally last for a week or two.

The second stage includes all the signs and symptoms traditionally associated with depression. During this period, the bereaved person is preoccupied with memories of the person who has died, talks incessantly about them....

The bereaved sufferer has a poor appetite, weight loss, waves of sadness and insomnia accompanied by night-time tears. They withdraw from their social life, losing interest in many of the activities they previously enjoyed....

Although many feel guilt in the second stage of grief, others may feel anger. This may be directed at the person who has died. "How could she leave me with all these problems?"...

Within four or five months, in the normal grief response, the depressed mood lightens....⁵⁵

Some of this, at least, seems to reflect universal human emotions.

⁵⁴*Q. fr.* 26/3.6(8)3.

⁵⁵Dr. Thomas Stuttaford, *The Times* (London) Sept. 1 1997: 5. For a brief collection of Roman sources, especially on husbands and wives, cf. Treggiari, *Roman Marriage* (n. 28) 495–58.

The fact that Tullia died (in February 45) as a result of bearing Dolabella's child must have increased Cicero's feeling of guilt that he had not taken a firm line earlier.⁵⁶ His bitter grief at his virtuous daughter's death was entirely natural. He and Terentia had recently divorced, his new marriage to Publilia turned out to be a rash experiment, his relationship with his brother was impaired, his son was beginning a more independent life. Apart from Atticus, Tullia was the person closest to him. His way of coping with grief was to avoid company as far as was possible to a man of his station, to devote himself to philosophical composition, and to attempt to carry out what he regarded as a *duty* to the dead woman, the creation of a shrine where people would remember her.⁵⁷ He recognised that Atticus thought the scheme a mistake (*error*), but both of them realised that it was a great comfort and consolation to him. He regarded himself as bound to carry it out, as by the strongest of possible oaths, and if he did not do it he would be guilty of *scelus*.⁵⁸ In the event, it was unexpectedly difficult to find the perfect site and the scheme seems to have been quietly dropped. Tullia's true memorial was the philosophical work which had occupied Cicero's mind more constructively.⁵⁹

Cicero's series of daily letters to Atticus in the spring of 45 reflect his emotions and his activities at the time. We lack a contemporary record of the early period of his mourning, between Tullia's death in February and the first

⁵⁶For Tullia's death cf. Plut. *Cic.* 41.5. From the villa at Tusculum, where Tullia had died, Cicero went to Atticus' house in Rome (*Att.* 281/12.40.2), and then to his villa at Astura (7 March 45, SB *Att.* V: 309). He was not without callers and companions. *Att.* 253/12.16, 10 March, and 254/12.18.1 (Philippus); 265/12.26.1–2; 266/12.27.1; 273/12.34.1, 30 March (Sicca); 281/12.40.2; 286/13.26.2. For company at Tusculum later see *Att.* 293/12.51.1; 295/12.53 (Tiro, Nicias, Valerius). Cicero was at Astura for three weeks in March. He spent the whole of April at Atticus' Nomentanum near Ficulea (SB *Att.* V: 328) and then returned to Astura until 16 May, when he went to the Tusculanum (where Atticus could drop in occasionally) via Lanuvium, arriving on the 17th and staying until the 21st of June, when he left for Arpinum (*Att.* 287/12.46–290/12.45; 318/13.10.3; 319/13.11).

⁵⁷On the shrine, see SB *Att.* V: App. III. The idea of apotheosis is explicit in *Att.* 277/12.37a, 5 May.

⁵⁸*Att.* 283/12.41.2–4, 11 May, Astura; *Att.* 284/12.43.2–3, 12 May 45, Astura. Cf. 254/12.18.1; 262/12.23.3; 279/12.38a.2. If he bought a place on the outskirts of Rome (*horti*) it would serve both to give him somewhere to live for the rest of his life and to soften his grief. (*Att.* 296/13.1.2, 23 May 45, Tusculum. Cf. 268/12.29.2, 25 March; 285/12.44.2, 13 May 45).

⁵⁹Memories of Tullia alive, hardly ever distinctly evoked even when grief was at its height, are no longer explicitly mentioned to Atticus. The shrine is last mentioned in June 44 (*Att.* 393/15.15.3).

surviving letter, from Astura, on 7 March.⁶⁰ More than half of this first letter in the series is on business matters. This section includes a request to Atticus to excuse him to others from engagements on the score of ill-health. He preferred not to allege mourning (*luctus*).⁶¹ In between, there is a restrained but moving account of his mood and occupations:

Brutus' letter of condolence was sensible and friendly and made me weep. The solitude of this place is less irritating to me than the crowds there. The only person I miss is you. I can occupy myself in reading and writing as easily here as if I were at home. The pain (*ardor*) presses on me as before and stays. I do not indulge it but fight against it. (*Att.* 250/12.13.1, 7 March 45, Astura)⁶²

It is clear that Cicero is past the first stage of numbness and disbelief. Subsequent letters maintain the usual standards of concern for others and for attention to business.⁶³ Atticus urged Cicero to “get over it.”

In wanting me to recreate myself from this grief, you are my constant friend as ever. You can bear witness that I have not failed myself. When I was at your house I read everything that anyone has ever written on how to diminish grief. But all consolation is defeated by pain. I have, however, done something which no-one ever did before me. I have consoled myself through writing. I will send you the book, if the clerks have copied it. I can tell you that there is no consolation like it. I write for days at a time, not that I get any good by it, but for the moment I am distracted—not, of course, enough (for intense feeling presses on me), but I find release and I do my utmost to repair not my mind but my countenance itself, if I can. When I do this, I sometimes think I am doing wrong (*peccare*) and sometimes that I would be doing wrong if I did not do it. The solitude helps me a little, but it would be much better for me if you were here. This is the only reason I have to leave here, for it is all right considering the bad circumstances. But that

⁶⁰He tells us later that while staying with Atticus in Rome, he had read all the books on how to diminish grief. But even Atticus' company did not help (*Att.* 251/12.14.3; 253/12.16).

⁶¹*Att.* 250/12.13. To refuse “invitations *luctus causa* would apparently have been against contemporary social canons” (SB *ad loc.*, citing Sen. *Ep.* 63.13, etc.). Women, for whom formal mourning was prescribed, would, according to Cicero, though weak, at last stop mourning the death of children (*Fam.* 187/5.16.6).

⁶²Brutus' letter is mentioned again (*Att.* 251/12.14.4).

⁶³E.g., *Att.* 251/12.14.1, 2, 4, 8 March.

too gives me pain. You cannot be the same towards me. For the things you loved have perished. (*Att.* 251/12.14.3, 8 March 45, Astura)⁶⁴

Next day, Cicero reports that he was talking to no-one and spent his days from morning to evening hidden in a wood. He conversed with books, but this was interrupted by fits of weeping.⁶⁵ The following day he continues in the same vein. Atticus would be the first person who would be able to help him, and he longed to see him, but ruled out being in Atticus' house or his own house in Rome.⁶⁶ On the 11th, he asked for Atticus' approval and help about the scheme for the shrine, which he had already discussed with him. His memories pained him as if they bit him. Writing had been like applying a fomentation to his wound, but now he found solitude best. He wanted to consecrate her (she is not named) with Greek and Latin memorials (apparently inscriptions). It might irritate his wound, but he felt bound as it were by a vow and promise. "And the long time when I shall not exist moves me more than this little span, which yet seems too long to me. For though I have tried everything, I have nothing which gives me peace."⁶⁷

After a number of letters on business and on the shrine, he writes again on the 15th, replying to a report of criticisms from others that he did not dissimulate his pain enough. He protests that he was totally occupied in reading and writing, and this is backed up by his request for prosopographical information about whether a certain son died in the lifetime of his father and whether a certain mother died in her son's lifetime or later.⁶⁸ He protests that criticism from others about his absence from the forum meant little to him: he cared only for the good opinion of Atticus. His research and writing on bereavement showed that he was a brave patient, who took his medicine.⁶⁹ He wanted lonely places, but if he had to be in Rome was determined to conceal his pain from all but Atticus. He did not want to be in the Caesarian forum, and, as Atticus said, his town house was like the forum. But what did he want with a

⁶⁴The book is the *Consolatio*. Two books of the original version of *Academica* were finished in May (*Att.* 285/12.44.4).

⁶⁵*Att.* 252/12.15.

⁶⁶*Att.* 253/12.16.

⁶⁷*Att.* 254/12.18.1.

⁶⁸*Att.* 258/12.20.2, 15 March. The points are followed up in *Att.* 261/12.22.2, 18 March; 262/12.23.3, 19 March, 263/12.24.2, 20 March. He needed a daily letter from Atticus, and so wrote himself, although he had no news to report (*Att.* 259/12.12.2. Cf. 266/12.27.2).

⁶⁹*Att.* 260/12.21.5, 17 March.

town house? “I am dead, dead, Atticus, and have been for a long time, but now I can admit it, because the one thing which kept me here is lost to me.”⁷⁰

Solitude continues to be his chief wish, although he can also say that he does not want to be away from Atticus and others.⁷¹ Atticus encouraged him to return to his normal life. Cicero explains that he had done his duty in mourning the commonwealth, when he had Tullia as a refuge (*ubi acquiescerem*). Now he could not live that life again. He put his own conscience before other people’s gossip. His self-consolation had reduced his overt grief (*maeror*) but not his inner pain.⁷² He left Astura at the end of March, and went to a villa of Atticus’ outside Rome.⁷³ This ends the first period of second-stage mourning documented in the letters.

While he was there, he received a letter from Ser. Sulpicius Rufus. Sulpicius wrote from Athens to administer consolation as a friend, expressing his own sense of loss (but pointing out sensibly that relatives were not well able to subdue their tears enough to console each other). He produces the usual reflections on human mortality, puts the loss of “one little woman” into the context of losses in the civil war and of the short lives of famous cities and argues that she would have had little more to live for under a dictatorship. She had had a successful life, which ended at the right moment. Cicero is to remember he is Cicero and demonstrate his philosophy. All pain is softened with time, but Cicero must return to public life without waiting for time to heal him. It would be disgraceful (*turpe*) for him to wait, and he owes it to her not to. “If the dead feel at all, she had such love for you and such dutifulness to all her family, that she assuredly does not want you to do this.”⁷⁴ Fresh from his intensive reading, Cicero can have found little new here, but who can be original in a letter of condolence?

Sulpicius brings the usual consolation to Cicero, that men are mortal, that the dead knew happiness and loved their mourners, that the pain will grow less and that one must be brave. Being as educated and more eloquent than

⁷⁰The comparison with the forum apparently means he could see people in his house and thus avoid criticism (*Att.* 262/12.23.1, 19 March, with SB *ad loc.* and pp. 404–5). His possessions meant nothing to him: he could sell silver or rich fabrics or even the landscapes he had loved in order to buy a suitable site for the shrine (*Att.* 262/12.23.3).

⁷¹*Att.* 265/12.26.2; 268/12.29.2: *nec enim esse in turba possum nec a vobis abesse*.

⁷²*Att.* 267/12.28.2, 24 March.

⁷³*Att.* 273/12.34.1 and n. 56.

⁷⁴*Fam.* 248/4.5. Cf. Cicero’s condolence to Titius (*Fam.* 187/5.16, ?late summer/autumn 46) and *ad Brut.* 18 (p.b. 19)/17/1.9.

Sulpicius, Cicero is able to rebut his argument. He finds that the retirement from public life forced on him by Caesar's victory means that he has no distraction from grief. "I am overcome sometimes and can scarcely withstand my pain, because I do not have the solaces that others, whose examples (*exempla*) I put before myself, had in similar misfortunes." He names various men whose grief for their sons was assuaged by their position in the state, *dignitas*. But he has lost all the honours for which he had worked so hard.

The one solace I had left has been snatched from me. My thoughts were not distracted by the affairs of my friends nor by taking care of the commonwealth; it did not please me to do anything in the forum; I could not bear to look at the Senate house; I thought—and I was right—that I had lost all the fruits of my hard work and good fortune. But when I realised that I shared this with you and some others and when I broke myself in and forced myself to bear this tolerantly, I had a person with whom I could take refuge, with whom I could find repose, in whose conversation and sweetness I laid aside all cares and pains. But now with this deep wound, even those things which seemed to have healed have broken open again. For then, when I came back miserable from public life, a house welcomed me and cheered me. But now when I grieve I cannot take refuge in public life and find repose in its good things. So I am absent both from home and forum, because my home cannot now console me for the grief I feel about the commonwealth, nor can the commonwealth console me for my private grief. (*Fam.* 249/4.6.2–3, mid-April 45, Atticus' villa near Nomentum)⁷⁵

On going back to Astura in May, nearly restored to himself, he resumed his correspondence with Atticus and his writing, rebutting strongly criticisms of his absence. He was not broken in mind, for he was writing on difficult subjects and his occupation was worthy of a learned man.⁷⁶

You say you are afraid that my influence and authority may be reduced by this grieving of mine. I do not understand what people can reprove or demand. That I do not feel pain? Who can? That I not be prostrated? Was anyone ever less so? While your house gave me relief, did I refuse anyone admittance? Who came who was offended? I left you for Astura. Those happy people who reprove me cannot read as much as I

⁷⁵About the same time, he wrote to Tullia's divorced husband, protesting that he was not surrendering to fortune and claiming firmness and constancy (*Fam.* 250/9.11; cf. *Att.* 281/12.40.3).

⁷⁶*Att.* 274/12.35, ?? May; 278/12.38.1, 6 May; 279/12.38a.1, 7 May.

have written. How well I've done it doesn't matter. (*Att.* 281/12.40.2–3, May 45, Astura)⁷⁷

Atticus was not the only friend to worry about it. Lucceius, in a kindly letter, approved of Cicero for seeking solitude and engaging in scholarship, but hoped he was not giving in to tears and sadness as he had before he left Rome.⁷⁸ Cicero replied thanking Lucceius for his love—"I would have called it pleasant, had I not lost that word for ever"—and excusing himself on the grounds that the remedies he ought to have had for his wound did not exist. His friends were dead or had become insensitive (except for people like Lucceius); instead of enjoying in old age what they had achieved, they were ashamed to be alive; even books did not work as a refuge now he was despoiled of private and public distinctions and solaces, for they kept him from the refuge of death. His home could not delight him; he was repelled by the times, men, forum and Senate house.⁷⁹ But he now met Atticus' unusually stern reprimands with the admission that he was probably at fault (*vitium* or *error*). The shrine was still a comfort to him.⁸⁰ Planning to leave for Rome or Tusculum, either of which would be full of memories, he claimed to have crushed his feelings and perhaps conquered.⁸¹

It is at this point that he admits he cannot sleep and has been writing a vast amount at night. Even Tusculum would not bring back any more thoughts than those which exhaust him day and night. If he is ever to go back there, it cannot matter whether he goes now or in ten years' time, for his grief will still be the same, though it may be less apparent to others.⁸² The subject of his suffering and the subject of the shrine taper off, though he writes at least daily until June. Life seems to return to normal, though sadness resurfaces because he has

⁷⁷Criticism of Cicero's reaction, in this as in other crises of his life, seems to have been strong enough to affect the verdict on him even posthumously. The only one of his misfortunes which Cicero bore like a man, they said, was his own death (*Liv. ap. Sen. Suas.* 6.22, cf. 24 (Pollio); *Plut. Cic.* 41.5).

⁷⁸*Fam.* 251/5.14, c. 9 May.

⁷⁹*Fam.* 252/5.15, mid-May, Astura.

⁸⁰*Att.* 283/12.41.2–3, 11 May; 284/12.43.2, 12 May.

⁸¹*Att.* 285/12.44.3, 13 May; cf. 283/12.41.1; 284/12.43.2; 286/13.26.2; 287/12.46.1.

⁸²*Att.* 286/13.26.2, 14th May; 287/12.46.1, 15th May. Unsurprisingly, when he reached Tusculum on 17 May, he regretted leaving Astura and found the wound chafed worse because of where he was. But he was cheered by a brief visit from Atticus (*Att.* 290/12.45.1, 17th May; 291/12.50, 19th May; 291/12.49.1, 20th May).

nothing to do and is nothing in private or public life.⁸³ After his return to Tusculum about 9 July, he was still working on philosophy, but also conducting a busy social life.⁸⁴ We may perhaps regard him as having reached the threshold of a return to normal life, the third stage.

The second stage of mourning for Cicero did not mean he was sunk in hopeless depression. His mind was still focussed on Tullia and he suffered from insomnia and a revulsion from company and his usual pursuits. He displays, however, all his usual precision of style and alertness to political and financial matters. His meticulousness about historical facts remains. He is not dead to the demands of friendship nor does he rebuff even tedious callers. There are traces of humour. He is able to act as he thinks right and to negotiate the demands he experiences from philosophical theory, Roman convention, his "public" and the friends who represent them to him. He both feels and controls deep grief, both finds philosophy and conventional morality wanting and takes them into account, both listens to his friends and argues with them. Dealing with grief and mourning in private and public is a tightrope act.

As I finished drafting my piece on "Tullia Dead," at the end of August 1997, news came through of the sudden death of another divorced mother in her 30s, prominently placed in national and international society. The question of appropriate mourning became urgent and painfully controversial. Restraint, custom, the convention that the immediate family are allowed a time to mourn in private, were opposed by a desire for public demonstrations of grief, rituals which evolved and in which more and more people participated as they were publicised. In the end some balance was perhaps achieved between free and public expression of emotion and the comforting solemnities of traditional ritual.

There is no neat fit between the public events of 1997 and the evidence I have been looking at from Cicero's semi-private documentation of his grief and mourning. It is interesting to note that classicists were not slow to see parallels with Rome. Peter Jones compared the takeover of Caesar's funeral by elements of the Roman plebs, who cremated him in the forum instead of outside the city.⁸⁵ He might have added the precedent of Clodius, for whom the Senate

⁸³Arpinum offered the hope of solitude by the river, but heavy rains kept him indoors on his arrival. Later, the place did him good (*Att.* 318/13.10.1 and 3 ?18 June; 323/13.16.1, 26 June; 328/13.20.3, c. 2 July).

⁸⁴*Att.* 330/13.33a, ?9th July; 331/13.23, 10th; 332/13.24, 11th; 333/13.25, 12th, etc.

⁸⁵Caesar: *Att.* 364/14.10.1; cf. *Liv. epit.* 116; *Suet. Jul.* 84, *Plut. Caes.* 68, *Ant.* 14.3–4, *Brut.* 20.1–7, App. *BC* 2.143–47, D.C. 44.50. Jones, *Spectator*, Sept. 13 1997: 19.

house was turned into a pyre.⁸⁶ It was the people who demanded too that Pompey’s wife and Caesar’s daughter should be buried in the Campus Martius.⁸⁷ Others noticed the reactions to the news of the death of Germanicus abroad, when the populace anticipated formal public mourning by deserting the forum and shutting themselves up indoors, so that there were silence and groaning everywhere. It happens that that painful occasion has been the subject of a joint seminar with the AIA at this meeting, of at least one individual paper, and of an article in the January issue of *Omnibus*.⁸⁸

8. Conclusion

In contemporary history we have seen what was neatly called “the current mood of compulsory populist emotionalism” exert an influence in changing protocol and the public behavior of public figures.⁸⁹ For Cicero, conversely, we see pressure to appear playing his accustomed role in the forum and in his town house, to go back to work and to conceal his grief. As he said a few months later in another context, “What a great and difficult thing it is to maintain in public life the mask of a leader, which must be a slave to the hearts as well as the eyes of our fellow-citizens.”⁹⁰

As human beings and scholars, we must and can bring our training, scholarly objectivity, subjective assessment and sympathy to bear on the public and the private experience.

⁸⁶Clodius: e.g., *Mil.* 33. For the burning of the *curia*, see *Mil.* 13, 33, 61, 90–91; *Livy epit.* 107; *App. BC* 2.21; *Plut. Brut.* 20.5.

⁸⁷*Liv. epit.* 106; *Plut. Pomp.* 53.4–5; *D.C.* 39.64.

⁸⁸Jasper and Miriam Griffin, “‘Show us you care, Ma’am,’” *NYRB* xlv. 15 (Oct. 9 1997): 29, reprinted in *Omnibus* 35 (Jan. 1998): 1–3. *Tac. Ann.* 2.82. For the official view of proper mourning for Germanicus, see the *SC de Pisone patre*, now accessible in English in M. Griffin, “The Senate’s Story,” *JRS* 87 (1997): 249–63. See also *Tac. Ann.* 3.3 for the criticism of Tiberius and Livia for not attending the interment of Germanicus’ ashes.

⁸⁹Harry Eyres, *Spectator*, 27 Sept. 1997: 51.

⁹⁰*Phil.* 8.29: *O di immortales! quam magnum est personam in re publica tueri principis! quae non animis solum debet sed etiam oculis servire civium.*